

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 June 2026 17:47
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: [REDACTED] REPG
Subject: RE: Botley West Solar Farm Development Consent Order [ES-CLOUD_UK.FID12366315]

Categories: SoS Consultation 2 Response

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Dear Sir/Madam

I write in relation to the above application for a Development Consent Order to authorise the Botley West Solar Farm ("DCO"). I act for Thames Water Utilities Limited ("TWUL") who have made a Relevant Representation on 15 January 2025 and a further Written Representation on 9 June 2025. TWUL also provided further updates on 13 February 2026 and 9 June 2026 in respect of its position.

I write to further update you on TWUL's position, pursuant to the Secretary of State's letter dated 11 June 2026.

TWUL notes that the latest revision of the draft DCO retains the protective provisions in favour of TWUL at Part 5 of Schedule 15, however these provisions do not include a restriction on the exercise of compulsory purchase powers under the DCO in respect of TWUL's land. Whilst it has been noted that the Property Agreements are still under negotiation and are nearly settled, the purpose of those documents is to grant to the Applicant the relevant land interests in TWUL land such that the Applicant will not need to exercise its compulsory purchase powers. Further land belonging to TWUL which falls within the limits of the DCO still requires protection against compulsory purchase powers and therefore the restriction is still required in the protective provisions, per TWUL's previous position.

TWUL respectfully submits that there has been a misunderstanding by the Applicant as to the nature of the objections submitted. The objections to date have been based on an absolute requirement to protect TWUL's statutory undertaking – the possibility of there being any compulsory purchase powers exercised over TWUL land cannot be accepted by TWUL as it presents a serious detriment to its undertaking – thus not satisfying the test in s.127 of the Planning Act 2008. For this reason, TWUL is working with the Applicant to grant the relevant land interest in order that the Proposed Development can be delivered. Regardless of the position as to the Property Agreements, TWUL require a restriction on compulsory purchase powers in the DCO.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Associate | Planning and Infrastructure Consenting | Eversheds Sutherland

T: + 44 20 [REDACTED]

M: + 44 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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